

Prevention of yellow fever.

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Commercial Relations with Brazil, as affected
by Quarantine Regulations

Brazil and New Orleans.



Prevention of Yellow Fever.

The following letter is an epitome of the reasons demanding an immediate and thorough investigation of a subject which involves the social, industrial and commercial prosperity of an immense territory embracing some of the fairest and richest portions of the Union.

A favorable solution of the question will throw open to capital and emigration vast fields of enterprise from which both must otherwise be diverted.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 31, 1885.

GEO. M. STERNBERG, M. D., Major and Surgeon, U. S. A.:

Dear Doctor—Your letter, just received, is confirmatory of the lively interest you feel in the subject of an investigating commission to determine the feasibility and value of inoculation with the causative agent of yellow fever as a preventive of that disease. I am glad to see that you fully understand the proposed commission as unrestricted in the scope of its observations, with liberty not only to investigate the claims of Freire and Carmona, but also to push to a conclusion, if possible, the principles and methods of Pasteur, Koch and others in the special application of them to yellow fever.

The terms of the bill creating this commission were carefully stated with an express view to untrammeled action in the field of discovery; any addition to present knowledge is in the line of its duty.

Whatever the crudities that may obscure the work of the



Mexican, Central and South American observers, it is certain that they are attacking the yellow fever problem in a direction heretofore untried, but in line with inoculation and vaccination against small-pox, and Pasteur's wonderful methods of protecting flocks and herds against charbon, domestic fowl against chicken cholera, and now, as this great and benevolent scientist proclaims, the human being and animals against hydrophobia.

Surely the protection by inoculation against yellow fever, which is typically a disease of one attack, would strike the mind of any one as far more reasonable than to suppose the efficacy of such a method in granting immunity from hydrophobia.

So far from anticipating the possibility of such protection, the latter disease is about the last physicians would have expected of being amenable to a measure akin to vaccination.

When we look back upon the appalling calamity of 1878 and consider what an immense territory was invaded by yellow fever, the dreadful mortality, the incalculable commercial and industrial loss, together with the severe check upon the progress of the material welfare, indeed, of all the elements of civilization in the South, it matters not if Carmona and Freire had never existed ; it is still imperative that a commission should be sent into the breeding places of that scourge, to apply there the startling discoveries revealed in Europe ; to test the possibility of yellow fever being no exception to what seems now to be a natural law of infectious diseases, and to give to our country as quickly as possible whatever benefits may be derived from the latest developments of modern science

The field of Bacteriology is being opened to the adventure of genius in the discovery, not only of the causes of pestilence, but, above all, of the power of limiting and suppressing it.

It offers a hope, and a brilliant one, of putting into the hands of our people the means of self-protection.

Until that field has been exhaustively cultivated, so far as relates to yellow fever, neither health authorities nor the general government dare assert that all that can be has been done, no measure of relief left untried !

As to the possible results of investigation in this field, the utterances of any man affirming or denying are equally valueless and without the slightest weight, inasmuch as the truth is not ascertainable except by direct experiment.

The question is not one of opinion, but, like any other problem in physics, is one of fact, and the necessities of an oft-afflicted and profoundly injured people demand a demonstration.

The appointed guardian at the gateway of the Valley of the Mississippi, the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana is compelled by every sentiment of humanity, by every appeal of duty and of prudence, to rise above the doubts and objections urged by personal bias of opinion, and to move forward with persistent energy in the execution of a plan which offers the possible emancipation of the American people from the dominion of a pestilence which has cost too many tens of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars to allow of computation here.

If we fail, my dear doctor, we fail in a glorious effort, sustained at all time, whether in success or in failure, by the consciousness of duty earnestly performed. In either event we feel assured of your entire sympathy. With New Year congratulation, I remain yours very truly,

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

Commercial Relations with Brazil, as affected by Quarantine Regulations.

The following was a reply to a recent letter from the Brazilian Consul-General at New York, complimentary to the improvements in Maritime Sanitation introduced during the present season by the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana.

OFFICE BOARD OF HEALTH, }
New Orleans, Oct. 17, 1885. }

DOM SALVADOR DE MENDONCA, Consul-General of Brazil,
New York City, N. Y.:

Sir—Through the courtesy of your Vice-Consul, Mr. Allain Eustis, I have been presented a copy of a recent letter in which you have graciously mentioned my name in connection with the effort being made at this port to develop commercial relations with the vast fields of trade south of us, and particularly with the Empire of Brazil. The reciprocal importance of these trade relations far exceeds any comprehension entertained by persons not especially informed by a careful study of the subject.

Accepting the axiomatic truth that the currents of trade seek the shortest course, it follows that the coffee importation into the Valley of the Mississippi, including the States on the Mexican Gulf, about twenty-four States and Territories in all, if allowed to pursue its natural and unobstructed way, would be by the shortest and most direct route from Brazilian ports, through the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, into the Mississippi to New Orleans, the great distributing point to the interior of the continent, both by water and by rail.

Not only coffee, but valuable furniture woods and other exports of the tropics naturally tend to follow this direct line to the areas of consumption, while the commodities of

exchange, such as Western Produce, manufactured goods, agricultural and other machinery, coal, iron, timber, etc. would follow the return course in ships regularly plying.

As for the Mexican trade we can hardly imagine a wider departure from the apparent natural laws of commerce than the shipment of coffee from Vera Cruz through the dangerous straits and around the peninsula of Florida into the Atlantic and to New York, many times the distance simply across the Gulf to New Orleans.

Considering that diminished distance and greater safety are wholly in favor of the latter port, deflections such as this seem almost like "tricks in trade," and are unaccountable upon any hypothesis except that of some obstruction in the natural channel too formidable to be overcome by the inherent power of the current itself.

A proclamation of non-intercourse, a forty or ten days detention in quarantine, is sufficient to turn the tide of commerce from any port in the world.

The instant a seaport plants itself behind such an obstruction its own importance ceases as absolutely as though it had wiped itself from the face of the earth. The coffee trade furnishes an exposition of the whole question in a manner singularly clear.

In 1859, the import into New York was: Pounds, 95,674,437; and into New Orleans, 66,484,541.

In 1882, into New York 342,840,541 pounds, and into New Orleans only 29,862,272 pounds; while the consumption in the country at large has gone up from 235,895,263 pounds in 1859 to 459,922,763 pounds in 1882.

Thus, while the consumption throughout the country has enormously advanced, the importation through New Orleans has enormously receded.

The exhibit here of coffee is precisely the same in regard to every other article of export and import between this valley and inter-tropical regions. The civil war was a temporary derangement that cannot account for a steady decline to the year 1885.

If the quarantine of detention had kept out any kind of pestilence, small-pox, yellow fever or cholera, we might call it a reasonable offset to this destruction of commerce, but when contemplated along with the fact that we have been invaded by pestilence whenever these infections were disposed to spread, we are not quite so complacent and by no means contented with a system of superstition endeared to us by long associations and hallowed with the musty odor of antiquity.

In the exchange of commodities between the North and South, New Orleans, at the gateway of the Valley of the Mississippi, can justly claim a natural prerogative, being in the most direct line of longitudinal commerce. The main channel of trade between the United States and the tropics would follow this route if left to the unobstructed operation of natural forces. This cannot be, unfortunately, for a conflict is waged by the immensely wealthy corporations which own the vast latitudinal or transcontinental railroads centering in Eastern cities and which find it to their interest to compel import tropical trade to move over their railroads and coastwise steamship lines.

They regard with jealous enmity the Mississippi river as the very embodiment of a hostile longitudinal trade across their latitudinal lines.

These transportation monopolies are cold-blooded and are without sympathy or consideration of any kind. In their avaricious zeal to establish an absolute control in which they can command freight charges ruinous to shippers and consumers, they do not hesitate to resort to any measures that will cripple and drive out men of smaller means, who endeavor to follow the business of maritime trade along natural lines of movement, co-incident with those of longitude, because it interferes with their own schemes of aggrandizement.

Anyone who interferes with the current of trade, whether capitalist or pirate, inflicts a general injury, and is to be regarded as a public enemy, whose motives in either instance are the same.

A violation of the principles of right, moral and commercial, must result in injury.

Not only do those powerful corporations seek to centralize all commerce in their own lines, but their success enables them to dictate terms oppressive to producers and consumers alike.

Could there be a violation of what may be called a natural law of commerce more flagrant than the shipment of Rio coffee, at discriminating rates, from New York to Texas, via New Orleans, the discrimination being against the New Orleans buyer?

Every incentive of justice and hatred of tryanny urge to resistance of such a pernicious use of power not granted by any law of the land. The constitution jealously provides against invidious discrimination as a matter of privilege. Having no law, therefore, to back them, the only pretext and shield of these grasping corporations has been the popular fear of yellow fever, and the consequent quarantine of long detention.

With these they have needed no law nor other backing, but have been masters of the entire North American tropical trade.

To have opened the port of New Orleans the year round has disturbed the equilibrium of these scare-crow calculations, while it has given an impulse of renewed hope to all who have an interest in the substantial welfare of this city and Valley.

These know that our future prosperity is in the broad fields south of us; and that pestilence and long quarantine are the only obstacles which may keep it away.

As a slight promise of hope we have already imported this summer since the establishment of "maritime sanitation," June 10, the one item of 13,293,787 pounds of coffee, against almost nothing during a corresponding period several years previous.

Finding that I have extended this letter unduly I will offer my apology with the hope that a future of the high-

est prosperity has opened to our people conjointly. For its encouragement to our public I took the liberty of having published the copy of your letter sent to me.

I remain, sir, with great respect, yours truly,

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,
President Board of Health State of Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 6th, 1886.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS OF COFFEE

From Brazil during the years 1883, 1884 and ending Dec. 31st, 1885. Taken from the books of the Auditor at the New Orleans Custom House.

26,708,248 pounds.....	in 1883.
29,301,020 "	in 1884.
43,336,503 "	in 1885.

ALLAIN EUSTIS,
Vice-Consul Brazil.

VICE CONSULATE OF BRAZIL, }
NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 4, 1886. }

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D., President of the Board of Health
State of Louisiana.

Dear Sir—I am in receipt of an important letter from his Excellency Dom Salvador de Mendonca, Consul General of Brazil, in New York, requesting me to present to you his most cordial compliments and at the same time a copy of the "*Journal de Commercio*" of Rio de Janeiro, of the 24th of November, last, containing an elaborate editorial suggested by your letter to that eminent official dated Oct. 17, 1885, which I had the honor to transmit to him. It is a just tribute to the zeal you have displayed in the interest of direct and continuous trade with this port. With the view of your efficient co-operation being properly understood by the Governments of both countries and the commercial public, Dom Salvador de Mendonca translated your letter himself, and forwarded it to Rio de Janeiro.

He begs you to send him other copies of your publications in regard to the sanitary system of New Orleans.

The agency of such a paper as the "*Journal de Commercio*," the first in South America, I hardly need remind you is of vital importance to our aspirations in securing the object we have in view. That Journal has pertinently advocated the idea for several years past.

I remain, respectfully yours,

ALLAIN EUSTIS,

Vice-Consul of Brazil.

Brazil and New Orleans.

The following is an editorial translated from the *Journal de Commercio*, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 24, 1885:

Our readers are aware of the occurrences concerning trade operations between Brazil to New Orleans. For some long time New Orleans has been laboring to establish an almost interdiction of direct trade from Brazil, by the maintenance of a rigid quarantine during six months each of many past years, to which all vessels from our ports were subjected. On the occasion of the exposition of Brazilian coffees there, prepared at the instigation and in the name of the Central Agricultural and Commercial Association, the representative of the same, an agent for the Imperial Government, Dom Salvador de Mendonca, exerted himself actively and intelligently to induce the Board of Health to modify the quarantine by demonstrating how exaggerated have been the statements with respect to the violence of character of yellow fever in Brazil, and how the doing away with the quarantine would improve the commercial relations between New Orleans and Brazil.

The importance of this object is evident from figures, which, were they not official, would appear imaginary. It

is a fact that while in 1859 the direct importation of coffee into New York amounted to 95,574,437, pounds against 66,484,541 pounds direct importation into New Orleans; and in 1882 the importation into New York was 342,840,780 pounds, while into New Orleans it was hardly 29,862,272. The total consumption in 1859 reaching 235,865,268 pounds, and that of 1882 amounting to 459,922,768.

As Dr. Holt judiciously remarks, it is evident by these figures that while the importation of coffee had enormously increased in the United States, the quantity entered at the port of New Orleans had wonderfully diminished.

This anomalous economical phenomenon can only be accounted for by the quarantine regulations, and the figures above will explain what a large tribute has been paid by the entire Mississippi Valley to the severe sanitary measures adopted in New Orleans.

Although it does not consume all the coffee that it requires, there is no doubt that that immense valley is one of the largest outlets for the coffee imported at New York, and all this supply reaching New Orleans by indirect route, goes surcharged with the cost of additional time of transportation over the direct trade, with the charges of intermediate handling and railroad freight.

Calculating the magnitude of the supply, and the heavy additional tax thus imposed on the product, we can easily appreciate in a general way, how the modification of quarantine at New Orleans will contribute towards assisting the increased consumption of coffee in all sections dependent upon that important market.

The quarantine at New Orleans has been substituted since the 10th of June by regulations of maritime sanitation, which has produced important results fortelling with certainty incalculable advantages to be derived by the exchange of products between Brazil and New Orleans. Indeed, it is an auspicious circumstance that since the substitution of the system of sanitation there has been a direct importation of 13,203,787 pounds of coffee from Brazil into New Orleans,

whereas in previous summers the direct port entries there of our principal product were little or none. These figures afford assurance that the trade between Brazil and the Mississippi Valley will improve and develop mutual interests of the greatest value, contributing on the one hand to a marked increase in the consumption of coffee all over the vast territory of the United States, and on the other hand the importation into Brazil of numerous articles by way of New Orleans at lower prices than we now pay to other ports from which we draw our supplies. Even should these articles reach us at the same cost, our commerce would be interested in receiving them from New Orleans, stimulating in this manner serviceable interchange with Brazil.

We know and record the fact with pleasure, that in his patriotic labors against the quarantine system of New Orleans, Dom Salvador de Mendonica found in Dr. Joseph Holt, President of the Board of Health of Louisiana, an intelligent support and perfected judgment. To the independence of character and the illustrious position of these energetic gentlemen the commercial body of New Orleans and in the same manner that of Brazil owe this very eminent service.

The substitution of the quarantine of New Orleans had to encounter for a long time an obstinate resistance from the monopolies of powerful railway companies, naturally interested in transporting coffee imported through New York for New Orleans.

Dr. Joseph Holt had the courage to contend against this monopoly, taking upon himself the responsibility of this measure, so ardently desired by the South and Mississippi Valley, and so energetically fought against by those powerful associations and a number of intermediate commercial agents. So that our readers may be fully informed on this subject, we transfer to our columns the following letter of Dr. Joseph Holt.

WHAT THEY SAY OF US.

The press of New Orleans has devoted some columns to the commercial relations with Brazil, manifesting the hope that in a short time they will be considerably extended, thanks to the substitution of the quarantine regulations to the new measures adopted under the general denomination of "Maritime Sanitation."

The Daily Picayune, Times-Democrat and also the New Orleans Bee refer to official communications of the Consul-General of Brazil in New Orleans, which evince the lively interest that the Government of Brazil takes in the question of direct trade with the Mississippi Valley.

The last mentioned journal expresses great satisfaction in seeing that a citizen of the United States, Mr. Allain Eustis, has merited the praise and confidence of the Imperial Government for the active manner in which he co-operated for the exportation of Brizilian coffees and the zeal displayed by him in promoting direct trade between the Empire and New Orleans.

Mr. Allain Eustis has been untiring in his labors, rendering to Brazil meritorious service.

